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# Immigrating to Alberta

Frequently asked questions



## ENGLISH

## 1 Where can I find jobs available in Alberta?

One of the best ways to search for jobs in Alberta is on the Internet. A good place to start your search is with these government websites which provide career information and links to job postings and other job websites in Alberta.

Government of Alberta  
[www.albertacanada.com/jobs](http://www.albertacanada.com/jobs)

[www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca)

Government of Canada  
[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)

## 2 How can I apply for these jobs?

You must contact the employer directly. The Government of Alberta does not collect or forward resumés or applications to employers.

## 3 How can I immigrate to Alberta?

Non-Canadians can work and live in Alberta on a temporary or permanent basis. The fastest way to come to Alberta is as a temporary foreign worker under the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker program (TFWP). For more information about the TFWP, visit:

[www.albertacanada.com/immigration/working/temporaryforeignworkers.html](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/working/temporaryforeignworkers.html)

Once you are in Alberta as a temporary foreign worker, your employer can give you a permanent job offer and nominate you for permanent resident status under the Alberta Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). If the PNP application is approved, you can become a permanent resident in 6 - 18 months.

For more information about the PNP and for lists of occupations eligible under the PNP, visit:

[www.albertacanada.com/pnp](http://www.albertacanada.com/pnp)

Applying to become a permanent resident through Citizenship and Immigration Canada generally takes between two to six years. Processing

times will vary depending upon what type of application you submit and which Canadian visa office processes the application.

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp)

## 4 Will my qualifications be recognized in Canada?

The Foreign Credentials Referral Office, part of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provides information, path-finding and referral services to help foreign-trained workers succeed and put their skills to work in Canada more quickly. For more information, visit:

[www.credentials.gc.ca](http://www.credentials.gc.ca)

The International Qualification Assessment Service compares educational qualifications from other countries to Alberta's educational standards. For more information, visit:

[www.immigration.alberta.ca/iqas](http://www.immigration.alberta.ca/iqas)

If you work in an occupation that requires trade or professional certification or licensing, you must qualify to work in that trade or profession based upon the relevant association's requirements. See question 5 for more information.

## 5 What type of certification is required for the trades and for engineering and health care professionals?

Certification and Registration Requirements for Employment (CERTinfo) answers common questions about certification and registration requirements for employment in Alberta. For information about certification and registration requirements for particular occupations, visit:

[www.alis.alberta.ca/certinfo](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/certinfo)

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) regulates trade occupations in Alberta. There are two categories of trades: compulsory trades (e.g., plumbers, welders and mechanics) and optional trades

(e.g., cabinetmakers, cooks, carpenters and concrete finishers).

Temporary foreign workers seeking to work in a compulsory trade should have their foreign credentials and work experience assessed by AIT under the Qualification Certificate Program before arriving in Alberta. Within six months of arriving in Alberta, temporary foreign workers must pass any necessary exams and obtain their Qualification Certificate from AIT.

For a list of compulsory trades and for information about the Qualification Certificate Program, visit:

[www.tradessecrets.gov.ab.ca](http://www.tradessecrets.gov.ab.ca)

Temporary foreign workers seeking to work in an optional trade do not need a Qualification Certificate from AIT. However, many Alberta employers expect that temporary foreign workers have relevant credentials and work experience and can perform the duties of a certifiable tradesperson. This enables employers to assess the skills of temporary foreign workers and pay comparable wages.

Engineers are not permitted to practice as engineers in Alberta without an Engineer in Training designation or a full license from the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta. For more information, visit:

[www.apegga.org](http://www.apegga.org)

Health care professionals such as physicians, nurses and health technicians (examples: radiologists, sonographers and physiotherapists) are required to obtain a license to practice in Alberta from the relevant professional association. For more information, visit:

Alberta College of Medical Laboratory Technologists  
[www.acmlt.org](http://www.acmlt.org)

Alberta College of Optometrists  
[www.collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca](http://www.collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca)

Alberta College of Pharmacists  
[www.pharmacists.ab.ca](http://www.pharmacists.ab.ca)

Alberta Dental Association and College  
[www.abda.ab.ca](http://www.abda.ab.ca)

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta  
[www.cpsa.ab.ca](http://www.cpsa.ab.ca)

Alberta Physician Link  
[www.ruralphysicianlink.ab.ca](http://www.ruralphysicianlink.ab.ca)

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta  
[www.nurses.ab.ca](http://www.nurses.ab.ca)

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta  
[www.clpna.com](http://www.clpna.com)

College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta  
[www.crpna.ab.ca](http://www.crpna.ab.ca)

College of Physical Therapists of Alberta  
[www.cpta.ab.ca](http://www.cpta.ab.ca)

All other professionals should contact their professional associations.

## 6 Which occupations are in the greatest demand?

Occupations in demand vary over time. Currently, some of the occupations in highest demand include:

- Construction and trades
- Engineers
- Health care professionals
- Hospitality services
- IT professionals

For the Regional Occupations Under Pressure List for Alberta, visit:

[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/foreign\\_workers/oup/aboutlist.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/oup/aboutlist.shtml)

For more information about Alberta's labour market, visit:

[www.employment.alberta.ca/lmi](http://www.employment.alberta.ca/lmi)

## 7 Which cities have the most job opportunities?

In Alberta, all cities, and especially northern and rural areas, have a variety of job opportunities. In particular, there is a need for trades and professional people.

## 8 What are the average salaries?

Alberta's minimum wage is \$8.40 CAD per hour, but many workers make

much more. For example, the average salary for an engineer starting out in Alberta is approximately \$75,000 CAD per year.

For information about wages and salary levels for different jobs and occupations, visit the Alberta Wage and Salary Survey at:

[www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo)

## 9 Do I have to use an employment agency?

No, you do not have to use an employment agency or a recruiter. However, if you choose to use an employment agency or a recruiter to help you find a job in Alberta, it is important that you know these facts:

**Employment agencies and recruiters must be licensed by the Government of Alberta.** You have the right to request an employment agency's or recruiter's license to confirm that it is properly licensed.

**Employment agencies and recruiters cannot charge you a fee for finding you a job in Alberta.** Employment agencies and recruiters can only charge fees to Alberta employers. However, if an employment agency or recruiter provides you with services such as résumé preparation or interview skills coaching, then it can charge you a fee. Using an employment agency or recruiter does not guarantee you employment.

[www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/1016.cfm#anchor2](http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/1016.cfm#anchor2)

## 10 If I come to Alberta as a temporary foreign worker, can my spouse work and my children go to school?

If you would like your immediate family members (spouse or common-law partner and dependent children) to come with you to Canada during your temporary stay, you must include them in your application for a work permit and pay any additional application processing fees. The Canadian visa

officer who assesses your application for a work permit will make the final decision on whether your immediate family members may come with you to Canada.

Spouses and common-law partners of skilled temporary foreign workers can work in Canada with an open work permit.

Spouses and common-law partners of semi-skilled temporary foreign workers must have a job offer, a Labour Market Opinion and a work permit to work in Canada.

Dependent children of skilled and semi-skilled temporary foreign workers seeking to attend school in Canada should apply for a study permit.

For more information, visit:

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/faq/work/work-faq08.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/faq/work/work-faq08.asp)

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-minors.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-minors.asp)

## 11 If I come to Alberta as a temporary foreign worker, can I change employers?

Yes, you can change employers. You can apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to change or extend your work permit from within Canada. In most cases, however, your new employer will have to provide you with a Labour Market Opinion before you can apply for a new work permit. Your new work permit application must reflect any changes in your employer, employment location and job title. You cannot start working for your new employer until you receive your new work permit from CIC. For more information, visit:

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/extend-worker.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/extend-worker.asp)

## 12 What does housing cost?

Although the cost of owning or renting a home in Alberta has increased recently, the cost of living in Alberta is still lower than in some other provinces in Canada.

The average purchase price of a house in a major city is approximately \$350,000 CAD.

The average rental price for a two-bedroom apartment in a major city is approximately \$1,000 CAD per month.

For more information, visit:

[www.albertarent.com](http://www.albertarent.com)  
[www.mls.ca](http://www.mls.ca)

## 13 What types of educational opportunities exist?

### Primary and Secondary Education:

Alberta has an excellent public school system and Alberta students rank at the top in national and international tests. The Alberta High School Diploma is well-recognized throughout North America. Education up to Grade 12 is free and dependent minor children of temporary foreign workers can attend school. For more information, visit:

[www.albertacanada.com/immigration/living/education.html](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/living/education.html)

### Post-Secondary Education:

Alberta has some of the best universities, technical schools and

colleges in Canada. There are four universities, 14 colleges, two technical institutes and seven private institutes with accredited degree programs. Alberta's universities offer a wide range of undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programs. They also offer many professional programs such as medicine, dentistry, law, engineering and business. Alberta also has some of the best research facilities in the world. For more information, visit:

[www.albertacanada.com/immigration/living/postsecondary.html](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/living/postsecondary.html)

### International Students:

Foreign students are encouraged to come and study in Alberta. Most foreign students can work while they study – gaining valuable work experience. For more information, visit:

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp)

Following graduation, most foreign students can work for up to two years in their field of study and may even be eligible for permanent resident status under the Alberta Provincial Nominee Program. For more information, visit:

[www.albertacanada.com/immigration/immigrate/internationalgraduates.html](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/immigrate/internationalgraduates.html)

## 14 What is the cost of health care?

Most people living and working in Alberta get universal access to hospital and medical services under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP).

Most temporary foreign workers and their families are immediately eligible for health care under the AHCIP.

Most Albertans and temporary foreign workers enrolled in the AHCIP must pay monthly premiums. Currently, the monthly premium rates are \$44 CAD for single coverage and \$88 CAD for family coverage (two or more persons). It is common for employers to cover the entire monthly premium amount or a portion of it. For more information, visit:

[www.health.alberta.ca/ahcip/AHCIP.html](http://www.health.alberta.ca/ahcip/AHCIP.html)

## 15 What is the weather like in Alberta?

Alberta is Canada's sunniest province; northern Alberta receives approximately 1,900 hours of sunshine and southern Alberta receives approximately 2,300 hours of sunshine each year. Alberta has four distinct seasons:

- A pleasant spring from March to May
- A hot summer from June to August
- A colourful autumn from September to November
- A snowy winter from December to February

Alberta's summer months are warm and sunny with temperatures ranging from 15°C to 23°C (60°F to 73°F), and highs of 30°C are not uncommon. Winter temperatures range from -8°C to -25°C (18°F to -13°F), with lows of -30°C on occasion.

Where can I get more information about immigrating to Alberta?

## Visit the Government of Alberta's international website at:

[www.albertacanada.com/immigration](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration)



Welcome

Immigrate

Live

Work

Attract

or contact:

## Alberta Foreign Worker Hotline

**Hours** Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST)

**Phone** Toll-free within Alberta: 1.877.427-6419

Outside Alberta: 780.427-6419

**Please Note:** The telephone hotline is available in English only.